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**Annual Report**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
for 1961  
**No. 2 AREA**  
**DEVON**



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Medical Officer of Health—Dr. R. C. MacLeod

Public Health Inspectors Surveyors

Axminster Rural	...	L. H. White	F. J. Smith
Honiton Borough	...	A. J. C. Nex	A. J. C. Nex
Honiton Rural	...	J. D. Hopgood	J. D. Hopgood
Ottery St. Mary Urban		C. W. Glover	C. W. Glover
Seaton	.	P. R. Bradley	P. R. Bradley



# Annual Report

for No. 2 Area for 1961

comprising :—

AXMINSTER RURAL, HONITON BOROUGH, HONITON RURAL,  
OTTERY ST. MARY URBAN AND SEATON URBAN.

R. C. MACLEOD, *Medical Officer of Health.*

This is the fifth Annual Report I have presented. I shall, as in previous years, comment on services provided in the area by the County Council as well as on those provided by the District Councils.

## Infectious Disease.

Compared with 1960 the number of cases of infectious disease notified rose slightly, most of the increase was accounted for by measles, though there was also more pneumonia.

1961								
Ottery St.								
		Axminster	Honiton	Honiton	Mary	Seaton		
		Rural	Borough	Rural	Urban	Urban	Total	
Scarlet Fever	...	9	1	0	2	0	12	
Whooping Cough	...	2	10	3	7	0	22	
Measles	...	43	65	80	10	1	199	
Poliomyelitis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)		4	0	3	0	0	7	
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory)		1	0	1	0	0	2	
Diphtheria	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Meningococcal Infection	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Encephalitis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dysentery	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Pneumonia	...	10	16	14	0	0	40	
Food Poisoning	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Erysipelas	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		69	92	102	19	1	283	

## Diphtheria.

Once again no cases have been reported during the year. It is essential, however, that immunisation against this disease should continue and all parents should ensure that their children are immunised.

## Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified during the year.

## Food Hygiene.

Many visits to food-handling establishments were made by the Public Health Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health during the year and once again improvement in general conditions is reported. Such visits must be continued regularly if any advance or even the maintenance of present standards is to be ensured.

## Immunisation.

The system whereby with the co-operation of the County Medical Department, immunisation figures for the five districts covered by this report can be compiled separately from those of the County as a whole has been continued. The numbers inoculated are shown below.

	Primary	Booster	Total
Smallpox ... ..	280	210	490
Triple* ... ..	269 (5 incomplete)†	56	325
Diphtheria-Tetanus ... ..	6 (1 incomplete)†	10	16
Diphtheria-Whooping Cough ... ..	—	11	11
Diphtheria ... ..	11	3	14
Tetanus ... ..	76 (3 incomplete)†	16	92
Whooping Cough ... ..	4	—	4
	646	306	952

\*Combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus vaccines.

†Most of these will be completed in 1962.

Compared with the immunisation figures of the County those for East Devon are quite good. The numbers immunised, however, can and must be improved upon.

The number of children Heaf tested in the senior schools during the year was 616. Of these 68 were found to be Heaf positive. All were X-rayed and none were found to be suffering from Tuberculosis. The negative children were given B.C.G. I am, of course, responsible for the giving of this inoculation at all senior schools in East Devonshire. It should be noted that children at private schools are also catered for, and all schools are circularised yearly.

## Legislation.

A number of new Acts affecting public health were passed during the year. There were :—

- (1) The Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961, which seeks to cleanse our rivers.
- (2) The Public Health Act, 1961, which brought in a number of new simplified and speedier procedures in dealing with housing, sewers, drains, etc., and also gives some new powers for dealing with infectious disease.
- (3) The Home Safety Act, 1961, which gives local authorities certain powers to promote safety in the home.

## **Poliomyelitis.**

No cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

## **Tuberculosis.**

Seven cases were notified. As I stated in my last report small numbers of cases must be expected to occur over the next few years. Final elimination of the disease may present special problems.

## **Brucellosis.**

The use of S19 vaccine to protect cattle is increasing but must be much more widespread before Abortus Fever becomes a rarity. It is no exaggeration to say that at present all unpasteurised milk is potentially dangerous to consumers. The risk to persons handling infected cattle is of course very considerable.

## **Cancer.**

The number of deaths from cancer of the lung was only three but the deaths from all types of cancer rose by 20% over last year's figures. The numbers are of course small.

Lungs							All types of cancer including lungs						
(1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961)	(1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961)
Axminster Rural. Population 14,440—													
1	4	5	9	8	6	0	31	22	36	36	32	36	41
Honiton Borough. Population 4,820—													
2	2	0	2	2	0	0	12	6	13	11	12	8	16
Honiton Rural. Population 6,910—													
1	3	1	1	1	3	1	10	17	9	17	17	14	17
Ottery St. Mary Urban. Population 4,040—													
Na	Na	1	2	2	1	1	11	7	3	16	12	12	16
Seaton Urban. Population 3,280—													
2	2	1	1	2	2	1	9	9	8	7	16	9	12
6	11	8	15	15	12	3	73	61	69	87	89	79	102

## **National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.**

It was unfortunately necessary to remove to hospital one elderly person who required constant attention, it being impossible to arrange for this constant attention to be given at home.

## **Welfare of Old People.**

Some progress <sup>has</sup> been made in catering for the needs of old people and the Rural District of Honiton Old People's Welfare Committee began its work during the year. Seaton Meals on Wheels service continued to provide a much needed and much appreciated service. A similar service for Honiton is just about to start.



## Hospitals.

There are three hospitals in the area :—

- (1) **Axminster** : Accommodation is as follows :—  
15 beds for general medical and surgical cases including one private and one amenity bed.
- (2) **Honiton** : Accommodation is as follows :—  
153 beds in all. 104 chronic sick, 26 welfare, 7 maternity and 16 acute medical and minor surgical.
- (3) **Ottery St. Mary** : Accommodation is as follows :—  
23 beds in all. 19 general medical and minor surgical, and 4 chronic sick.

Cases of Infectious Disease from the area go to Whipton Isolation Hospital. The Resident Physician and his staff have been most helpful at all times.

## Laboratory Facilities.

Co-operation between the Public Health Laboratory service at Exeter and the Public Health Department has been close.

## Child Welfare Clinics.

Child Welfare Clinics are held at Axminster, Millwey Rise, Colyton, Honiton, Seaton and Ottery St. Mary. The number of sessions held and the attendances were as follows :—

### **Axminster**

Number of session held—12.

Total number of attendances (babies)—36.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—22.

### **Millwey Rise**

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—63.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—68.

### **Colyton**

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—225.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—61.

### **Honiton**

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—391.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—272.

### **Seaton**

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—233.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—100.

### **Ottery St. Mary**

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—403.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—239.

## Sewage Disposal.

The Axminster Rural District sewage scheme with a new works at Kilmington and the Honiton Borough scheme are under consideration by the Ministry. A scheme for Seaton is still being debated. It is hoped that more progress will be made in the coming year.

## Water Supplies.

East Devon Water Board.

No further sources have been brought into use by the Board during 1961, nor have any of the existing sources been abandoned or reduced to standby. During the course of the year emergency supplies were made available to Seaton Urban District Council from Beer, and also to the Colyton Feoffees from the Axminster area supply.

Consumption in the early summer of 1961 rose to a peak of 1.78 m.g.p.d., but fell later with the arrival of rainfall. The average daily consumption for the year being 1.43 m.g.p.d.

740 samples were taken of water in supply and of these only 4 were unsatisfactory.

## Fluoride in Water.

In view of the controversy over the addition of fluoride to drinking water in order to protect children's teeth against decay, I think it advisable that the public should know that many waters in East Devon contain naturally occurring fluoride. The amount of fluoride contained in the water is however in no case sufficient to have an appreciable affect on children's teeth. The amount present in various waters is listed below in parts per million :—

Couchill, Beer	...	...	...	...	0.02
Burrowshot, Axminster	...	...	...	...	0.2
Hook Spring, Axminster	...	...	...	...	0.03
Wilmington, Near Honiton	...	...	...	...	0.05
Borehole, Ottery St. Mary	...	...	...	...	0.04
Weston, Near Sidmouth	...	...	...	...	0.01
St. Cyres, Honiton	...	...	...	...	0.04

## Outworkers.

Under the provisions relating to Outworkers in the Factories Act, 1937, it is necessary for Councils in whose areas there are factories or other establishments employing outworkers to inform the Medical Officer of Health of the district where the outworkers live of the fact of their employment.

The number of Outworkers seems to be declining. No problem has arisen in connection with such employment during the year.

## Mass Radiography.

The Mass Radiography Service examined 2,586 people throughout the year and a list of the conditions discovered is given below :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0
Requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	0
Requiring further observation	...	...	...	...	3
Healed cases	...	...	...	...	16
Sarcoidosis	...	...	...	...	1
Acquired Cardio-vascular Disease	...	...	...	...	3
Diaphragmatic abnormality	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	...	0
Thyroid enlargement	...	...	...	...	5
Lymphadenopathy	...	...	...	...	0
Bony abnormality	...	...	...	...	0

## Camping and Caravanning.

East Devon does not contain the large camping and caravanning sites present in other areas of the County. There will, therefore, not be such a great problem in bringing our sites up to the level laid down in the new Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. It is important that the two sites catering for holiday and touring campers and caravanners on the A.30 and A.37 roads should be upgraded as quickly as possible to cater for the large number of travellers going further west.

R. C. MacLeod,  
Medical Officer of Health.



# AXMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	52,135 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	14,440
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£180,073
No. of Parishes	...	...	...	...	15
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£712
General Rate levied	...	...	...	...	19/11½d.

## Deaths

1960—83 males, 88 females	...	...	...	...	171
1961—85 males, 88 females	...	...	...	...	173

## Live Births

1960—98 males, 66 females	...	...	...	...	164
2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 164.					
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.6.					
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births, 1.2.					
1961—86 males, 89 females	...	...	...	...	175
8 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 175.					
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.1.					
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births, 4.6.					

## Still Births

1960—2 still births were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	2
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	166
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 11.9.					
1961—1 still birth was registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	176
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 5.7.					

## Deaths of infants under 1 year of age

1960—0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, Nil.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.					
1961—4 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 22.9.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 2.4.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.					

### Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age

1960—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births,	Nil.				
Maternal deaths,	Nil.				
1961—2 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	2
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births,	11.4.				
Maternal deaths,	Nil.				

### Deaths of infants under 1 week of age

1960—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births,	Nil.				
Peri-natal mortality rate,	12.				
1961—2 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	2
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births,	11.4.				
Peri-natal mortality rate,	17.				

### Deaths.

The deaths registered were 173 as compared with 171 in 1960. This is about the average for the area and calls for no comment. Deaths of infants under 1 year of age were 4 compared with nil in the previous year. The chief causes of death were :—

	1960	1961
Tuberculosis	0	2
Other infective and parasitic disease	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	23
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	34	30
Coronary disease, angina	32	36
Hypertension with heart disease	6	3
Other heart disease	24	8
Other circulatory disease	4	10
Influenza	0	1
Pneumonia	7	4
Bronchitis	5	5
Other disease of respiratory system	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	3
Congenital malformations	1	5
Other defined and ill-defined disease	11	8
Motor accidents	1	2
All other accidents	2	4
Suicide	2	0

## **Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1961 Water Supplies.**

Seven sources of supply under the supervision of the East Devon Water Board were regularly sampled and examined and in all cases were found to be satisfactory.

The following private water undertakings were also examined and samples regularly taken :—

Axmouth (Stedcombe Estate)                      ...                      ...                      Class 1

Colyton (Feoffees). Last year this supply gave concern due to indifferent results and consequently frequent and more detailed sampling has taken place throughout the year, embodying all sources that feed the supply. The results were fair but there is still room for improvement. Care must be taken to see that in attempting to obtain quantity the quality is not affected. The matter is being kept under constant observation.

Combyne (Good's). This supply deteriorated in the latter part of the year through lack of supervision and maintenance. A series of samples were taken after remedial work had been carried out, and there is now evidence of a gradual improvement to a Class 1 supply again, although the position is being carefully watched.

Farm Water Supplies. During the year several new farm water supplies intended for domestic use as well as farming purposes were inspected, in order that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food could consider them for grant.

### **Sewerage.**

Schemes for the further improvement of sewerage in the area are in an advanced stage, and it is hoped that in the near future the Axminster works will be re-sited and enlarged. Other areas such as Chardstock and Raymonds Hill, which are at present unsewered should be brought into the sewerage scheme as soon as possible.

Individual schemes for the parishes of Membury, Dalwood and Rousdon are in various stages of preparation and although they are small schemes it is important that they should be brought forward as the opportunity arises.

### **Meat and other Foods.**

From 1st July, 1961, which was the Operative Day under the new Slaughter House Act, the slaughterhouse at Axminster was finally reconstructed to comply with the standards laid down, and was approved on final inspection by the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The slaughterhouse at Colyton ceased to function and all slaughtering from that centre was transferred to the Axminster Slaughterhouse. The standard of home killed meat was excellent.

**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.**

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number inspected ... ..	209	3	966	102
All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis ... ..	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part was condemned ... ..	29	—	31	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis ...	13.87%	—	3.2%	2.9%

**Tuberculosis only.**

Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part was condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis ... ..	—	—	—	—

Also during the year the following was condemned :—

Tinned Meat 42lb. 3oz., Cooked Meat 11lb. 1oz, Fresh Meat 161lb. 0oz., Fresh Fish 14lb. 0oz., Tinned Fruit 33lb. 3oz., Tinned Vegetables 13lb. 3oz., Other Foods 12lb. 4½oz.

**And**—the complete contents of a deep freeze at a shop had to be condemned because of excessive vibration fracturing a copper pipe thus putting the freezing compartment out of action.

**Poultry Dressing and Packing at Chardstock.**

Great development in production and marketing of dressed poultry in this once small scale business has created a large factory for the preparation of pre-packed, oven ready poultry. The premises are of recent construction and comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. There is an approximate average of 3,000 birds per day passing through the factory. This development has brought with it problems of hygiene and drainage necessitating frequent inspections of the buildings and methods of production. Continual supervision of the system of scrutiny of suspect conditions in birds' carcasses and viscera, and the proper disposal of unfit birds' carcasses by sterilisation. The amount of food passing through this factory is far in excess of that passing through the local slaughterhouse.

Excellent co-operation has been encountered from the proprietors and during the year I arranged for 20 students, who were on a food hygiene course, to visit the factory on a conducted tour of the buildings and processing lines.

## Food and Drugs Act.

1. Number of Food Premises— Type	Number in Area	Number of Inspections
(a) Grocer ... ..	52	4
(b) Butcher ... ..	11	7
(c) Bakers ... ..	9	6
(d) Fishmongers ... ..	5	7
(e) Confectioners ... ..	10	—
(f) Restaurants and Cafes ... ..	17	3
(g) Canteens (Works and Schools) ... ..	22	—
(h) Dairy Shops ... ..	5	1
(i) Greengrocers and Fruiterers ... ..	11	—
(j) Beach Huts ... ..	4	—
(k) Market Stalls ... ..	4	32
(l) Pannier Market ... ..	1	—
(m) Street Traders ... ..	3	—
(n) Clubs, Hotels and Licensed Premises	45	2
2. Number of Premises Registered under Section 16—		
(a) Manufacture of Sausages ... ..	10	—
(b) Sale of Ice-cream (pre-packed) ... ..	73	—
(c) Fish Frying ... ..	4	—
3. It has not been possible to form a guild within the area.		
4. Disposal of Condemned Foods—		
(a) Tinned Food—by incineration.		
(b) Meat—by incineration.		
5. No action has been necessary with regard to Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.).		

## Food Poisoning.

There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

## Knacker's Yard.

Periodical inspections were made of the premises of Hook, Chardstock, during the year. The premises are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition at all times and the disposal of waste properly controlled. There was no evidence of rat infestation.

## Caravans and Camping.

In 1961 there were :—

- 22 Residential Caravans
- 314 Static Holiday Caravans
- 47 Mobile Caravans
- 230 Organised Tents
- 17 Holiday Chalets
- 289 Casual Tents
- 2,900 estimated number of persons at any one time.



The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, has been implemented throughout the district on those existing sites which have come within the scope of the Act. During the period 14 individual sites were licensed, and also 5 larger sites ranging from 6 to 295 caravans in size.

All holiday sites have been frequently inspected during the season, and continued improvement of the sanitary conditions has been noted. The sites were reasonably well controlled and maintained throughout the season; only one complaint was received from a dweller, this concerned the general condition and structure of the particular caravan. Action was taken and the caravan was removed from the site.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

Refuse collection has been regularly maintained with weekly collections to all 15 parishes and fortnightly collections to outlying districts. The increase of building in the district has raised demands on the service especially in the Axminster and Uplyme districts. I foresee a similar trend in the Colyton and Beer areas.

During the holiday season demands in the coastal areas were great. In the summer a survey was carried out in an effort to find an adequate and suitable area for refuse disposal, but various suggested sites were found to have their drawbacks. Further efforts will be made to find a new site.

### **The Litter Act, 1958.**

There are approximately 150 litter receptacles situated throughout the district and during the peak periods of the holiday season these were often overflowing, although they were emptied in conjunction with the parish refuse collections. Special collections were also made.

A greater number of bins will have to be provided next year to deal with the situation and it seems that a special service will be required.

The care and maintenance of the litter receptacles is another problem to be met.

It would appear that until all authorities provide adequate numbers of litter receptacles within their areas, those areas now providing the service will be heavily overburdened.

## **Rodent Control.**

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

The part-time Rodent Operator continues to survey the whole of the district. During the year the following premises were inspected under the above Act :—

Local Authority	...	...	...	...	25
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	...	...	...	560
All other (including business premises)	...	...	...	...	184
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	273

Test baiting and half-yearly maintenance treatments were carried out to the Council's sewerage systems at Axminster, Axmouth, Beer, Colyton, Colyford and Stockland, and services were also carried out to the Council's sewage treatment plants.

The maintenance work on sewerage systems will soon have to be extended to the Uplyme, Kilmington and Whitford systems.

The Council's refuse dump was systematically treated every two months.

## **Verminous Premises.**

During the year four complaints were received. Advice was given to the persons concerned and the infestations were eradicated.

## **Petroleum.**

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936

Petroleum (Mixtures) Order, 1929.

Work was continued to carry out the licensing conditions under the above Acts, and the administration and annual licensing of all statutory installations was dealt with, covering 66 petrol and 2 petroleum mixture storage sites.

## **Housing.**

During the year the Council started on the replacement of the 72 converted dwellings at the old American Hospital Camp, Millwey Rise, Axminster. This work is well forward and should be completed within the next year. This event will greatly assist in raising the housing standards of the district.

Administrative work on the housing rural survey has been increased and action taken to improve accommodation wherever possible. Arising from 322 official searches no less than 22 properties were revealed in category 3 and in many cases the new owners availed themselves of the information given to improve the properties, sometimes by improvement grants.

There is a tremendous amount of work and inspection necessary to show any marked improvement on houses falling within this category, for the number of houses affected by this survey is over 2,000 and at least one quarter are in need of early re-survey.

During the year demolition procedure was undertaken on four houses, and Closing Order procedure on 14 properties.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Housing Department in order that the problems of rehousing are given the proper priorities that they warrant.

### **Rent Act, 1957.**

There were two applications dealt with under the provisions of the above Act.

### **Housing Act, 1957.**

1. Total number of dwelling-houses demolished ... ..	2
2. Total number of dwelling-houses closed ... ..	11
3. Total number of houses rendered fit by formal notice, Nil.	
4. Total number of houses rendered fit by informal notice, Nil.	

### **General Inspections.**

Water Supplies and Water Sampling ... ..	49
Drainage ... ..	59
Stables and Piggeries ... ..	1
Caravans ... ..	51
Litter ... ..	5
Factories and Workshops ... ..	16
Refuse Collection ... ..	12
Refuse Disposal ... ..	55
Rats and Mice (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act) ...	15
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits ... ..	14
Petroleum Visits and Inspections ... ..	16
Explosives—Visits ... ..	6

### **Under Public Health Act.**

Houses—Inspection and Visits ... ..	4
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### **Under Housing Act.**

Number of Houses inspected ... ..	102
Overcrowding ... ..	4

### **Filthy and Verminous Premises.**

No. of houses inspected ... ..	8
Miscellaneous housing visits ... ..	2

<b>Rent and Repairs Act</b> ... ..	3
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### **Meat Inspection.**

Total meat inspections ... ..	195
Knacker's Yard ... ..	6
Visits—Condemnation of Food ... ..	16
Miscellaneous Food Visits ... ..	7

# **Factories Act, 1957.**

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	7	2	—
Factories not included in the above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	67	11	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	6	3	—
	—	—	—
	80	16	—
	—	—	—

L. H. White, Public Health Inspector.

# HONITON BOROUGH

Area	...	...	...	...	...	3,125 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	...	4,820
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£68,677
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	...	£282
General Rate	...	...	...	...	...	23/10d.

## Deaths

1960—28 males, 30 females	...	...	...	...	...	58
1961—34 males, 52 females	...	...	...	...	...	86

## Live Births

1960—41 males, 37 females	...	...	...	...	...	78
1 illegitimate birth was registered and is included in the above total of 78.						
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17.						
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births, 1.3.						
1961—33 males, 41 females	...	...	...	...	...	74
6 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 74.						
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.3.						
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births, 8.1.						

## Still Births

1960—0 still births were registered	...	...	...	...	...	0
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	78
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births), 17.						
1961—1 still birth was registered	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	75
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 13.3.						

## Deaths of infants under 1 year of age

1960—2 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 25.6.						
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 26.						
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.						
1961—1 death was registered (1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 13.5.						
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, Nil.						
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 166.7.						



### Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age

1960—0 deaths were registered ... ..	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	
Maternal deaths, Nil.	
1961—1 death was registered ... ..	1
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 13.5.	
Maternal deaths, Nil.	

### Deaths of infants under 1 week of age

1960—0 deaths were registered ... ..	0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	
Peri-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	
1961—1 death was registered ... ..	1
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 13.5.	
Peri-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 26.7.	

### Deaths.

The chief causes of death were :—

	1960	1961
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ... ..	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	2	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	5	5
Leukaemia ... ..	1	1
Diabetes ... ..	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	16	25
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	9	16
Other heart disease ... ..	8	7
Other circulatory disease ... ..	6	6
Influenza ... ..	0	0
Pneumonia ... ..	4	4
Bronchitis ... ..	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	0	2
Congenital malformations ... ..	1	1
Other defined or ill-defined disease ... ..	3	6
Motor Vehicle accidents ... ..	0	0
All other accidents ... ..	0	1
Suicide ... ..	0	1
	—	—
	58	79
	—	—

## Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1961 Council Housing.

During the year no further Council Houses were completed, but work began on the erection of 32 Unity Houses on a site at Sidmouth Road. The Council are making these houses available for sale, and it is hoped that many people will take advantage of this scheme. Instructions have been given to carry out the preliminary work necessary for the erection of Old People's Bungalows on a site ideally suited for this, near the centre of the Town. The total number of occupied Council houses remains as last year, and is

Permanent Pre-War Houses	...	...	...	137
Permanent Post-War Houses	...	...	...	244
Prefabricated Bungalows	...	...	...	12
				—
				393

### Housing Act, 1957.

No statutory action has been taken during the year respecting slum clearance, but the Council have given instructions, after receiving preliminary reports, that the necessary plans and representations should be prepared so that they can consider the making of Clearance Areas in respect of two separate blocks of property.

No statutory action has been necessary under either the Housing Act, 1957, or the Public Health Act, 1936. The policy which has been pursued, i.e., persuasion and negotiation, is responsible for statutory action being unnecessary.

### Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

The Borough Council has continued its policy of assisting applicants with Improvement Grants, Mortgages for purchase of Property, and Loans for repair of properties, as shown by the table below :—

	No. Applications	No. Approved	No. Refused	Value Approved
Standard Grant ...	8	5	3	£690
Discretionary Grant	1	1	—	£200
Loans for Repairs	1	1	—	£400
Mortgages for House Purchase ...	9	8	1	£10,700

### Rent Act, 1957.

No fresh applications were received during the year.

### Water Supply.

Almost the whole of the Borough is supplied with a satisfactory water supply by the East Devon Water Board. Some isolated dwellings have their own private supply.

### **Bathing Facilities.**

The small Swimming Pool at Allhallows Playing Fields was extensively used during the summer months. Whilst water has been changed regularly and the pool has been chlorinated there is no doubt that conditions are not as satisfactory as they perhaps should be. During the year sanitary accommodation has been provided together with hand washing facilities. If the Pool is to continue in use, I feel that improved water purification must be provided.

### **Sewage and Sewage Disposal.**

The existing eastern and western works continued to be grossly overloaded. The works have been maintained in as good a condition as can be expected with this overloading. The Consulting Engineers have prepared detailed drawings for the proposed reconstruction of the works and the Council have applied for planning approval and have enquired of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government whether or not Loan Sanction will be available, and from the County Council whether a Grant will be available. The Devon River Board has also been informed of the proposals.

There is considerable development envisaged in the Borough and it is essential that priority be given to better sewage disposal arrangements.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

For all but a few outlying premises in the Borough, refuse is collected weekly.

The existing refuse tip at Ottery Moor Farm is almost full, and the Council have agreed to purchase a new type of lorry, and are making arrangements with Sidmouth Urban District Council to receive both the domestic and trade refuse from the Borough. The Ottery Moor Farm tip will be sealed off and it is hoped that parts not required for the proposed extension of the sewage works will be used for agricultural purposes.

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

The Council employ a fully trained part-time Rodent Operator. No major infestations were found during the year, and no statutory action was necessary. Regular treatment of properties owned by the Council including the refuse tip and sewage works were carried out. Private complaints were investigated and in almost all cases treatment was carried out by the Council Operator on a rechargeable basis.

A 10% test bait of the public sewers has been carried out. This showed a very light infestation. The necessary poison treatment was given and no further takes were recorded.

## Public Conveniences.

There are two Public Conveniences in the Borough, which have been extensively used, and maintained in a satisfactory condition.

## Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	25	3	—
Factories not included in the above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	16	5	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—

## Section 110 and 111—Outworkers.

Nature of Work	Section 110 No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel	2	—	—	—	—
Making nets, other than wire	5	—	—	—	—

## Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

There are 33 farms in the Borough. Only 1 inspection has been made, and the sanitary accommodation was found to be satisfactory. The majority of the farms are small and have few or no employees.

## Petroleum Acts.

Little work has been carried out under the Petroleum Acts and associated Regulations. Storage installations have been licensed and the occupiers made aware of the provisions of the Model Principles of Construction, Etc. It is hoped that during the coming 12 months inspections will be made, and where necessary ullage tests applied to old tanks.

## Camping and Caravanning.

Following the granting of planning permission to the owner/occupier of Lower Northcote Farm a site licence under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, for a residential caravan site was issued, the maximum number of caravans permitted on the site being 58. In addition to this residential site, planning consent exists on the same Farm for a holiday caravan site for a maximum of 30 caravans.

## Registered Premises.

7 premises are registered under Section 16 of the manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved foods, 23 premises are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream, and 2 premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream by the cold mix method.

## Meat Inspection.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs
Number killed ...	4,783	621	11,201	14,683
Number inspected ...	4,455	621	11,201	14,683

### All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.

Whole carcases condemned	18	3	6	18
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	217	15	89	164
Percentage of number inspected affected with a disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticercosis ...	5.28%	2.89%	0.84%	1.24%

### Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	—	10	—
Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis	0.006%	—	0.08%	—
Cysticercosis (Localised)	4	—	—	—

**Note.**—The three cases of Tuberculosis found in cattle were from animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950.



Not all of the inspections were carried out by a Qualified Officer. The table shown above is for the period 1/3/61 — 31/12/61, there being no records for the first two months of the year.

The following meat and offal was voluntarily surrendered from the two licensed Slaughterhouses.

						<b>Meat</b>	<b>Offal</b>
Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	8,103lb.	2,564lb.
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	111lb.	86lb.
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	468lb.	234lb.
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	1,151lb.	207lb.
Total Weight of Meat Condemned—4 tons 7cwt. 3qr. 5lb.							
Total Weight of Offal Condemned—1 ton 7cwt. 2qr. 11lb.							

#### **Voluntary surrender from food premises other than slaughterhouses.**

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	195½ lb.	
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	21 lb.	
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	23½ lb.	
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	18 lb.	
Minster Creams	...	...	...	...	...	84¾ lb.	
Plums	...	...	...	...	...	27 tins each 1lb. 4oz.	
Broad Beans	...	...	...	...	...	18 tins each 1lb. 3½oz.	
Cherries	...	...	...	...	...	13 tins-each 4¾oz.	
Meat Loaf	...	...	...	...	...	3 tins each 12oz.	
Chopped Pork	...	...	...	...	...	15 lb.	

In addition to the above list a vast quantity of food from a combined bakery and grocer's premises was surrendered as unfit following damage by fire. The list of articles amounts to seven typed pages of foolscap and approximately 4 days were taken to examine all the food from the premises.

#### **Food Poisoning.**

There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

A. J. C. Nex, Chief Public Health Inspector.

# HONITON RURAL DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	61,261 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	6,910
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	22
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£57,110
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£226
General Rate levied	...	...	...	...	18/6d.

## Deaths

1960—36 males, 30 females	...	...	...	...	66
1961—41 males, 41 females	...	...	...	...	82

## Live Births

1960—53 males, 42 females	...	...	...	...	95
2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 95.					
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.3.					
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births, 2.1.					
1961—46 males, 52 females	...	...	...	...	98
5 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 98.					
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14.2.					
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births, 5.1.					

## Still Births

1960—0 still births were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	95
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 13.3.					
1961—1 still birth was registered	...	...	...	...	1
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	99
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births), Nil.					

## Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1960—2 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 21.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 21.5.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.					
1961—2 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 20.4.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 21.5.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.					

### Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age

1960—2 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate) ... ..	2
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	21
Maternal deaths, Nil.	
1961—2 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate) ... ..	2
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 20.4.	
Maternal deaths, Nil..	

### Deaths of infants under 1 week of age

1960—2 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate) ... ..	2
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 21.	
Peri-natal mortality rate, 21.	
1961—1 death was registered (0 illegitimate) ... ..	1
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 10.2.	
Peri-natal mortality rate, 20.2.	

### Deaths.

The chief causes of death were :—					1960	1961
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	7	7
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	9	12
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	7	20
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	1	4
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	6	13
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	5	6
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	3
Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	0	1
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	2	0
Other defined and ill-defined disease	...	...	...	...	8	2
Motor accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	1
					—	—
					66	82
					—	—

## **Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1961 Water Supplies.**

An extension to the East Devon Water Board mains from Widworthy was laid in 6 inch pipe to Widworthy Park and then in 4 inch pipe towards Northleigh, eventually to reach Southleigh. This main when installed, it is anticipated in the autumn of 1962, will replace the local supplies which are becoming overtaxed.

The corrosive qualities of the water from Wilmington Springs has been causing concern and during the year work has commenced on a treatment works and storage and pumping ancillaries designed to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> content by aeration and soda ash treatment. It is expected that these works will come into operation in 1962.

The purity and quality of the Board's water supply has been generally satisfactory throughout the district, though excess suspended solids did appear for a short period following heavy rains at Branscombe.

### **Bacteriological Examination.**

A sample of water taken from a private well at Talaton was found to be unsatisfactory and representations were made to the owner to connect to the nearby water main.

### **Sewage Disposal.**

Work on the Sidmouth Junction/Feniton scheme is virtually completed but difficulty has been experienced due to the control valves of the ejector plant icing-up. The scheme has not been taken over by the Council to date and investigation of the problem is being carried out by the equipment suppliers.

A village sewerage scheme including a sewage disposal works and pumping station estimated at £20,000, has been prepared for Talaton and is at present awaiting Ministry approval.

Emergency work carried out at Branscombe Sewage Works to protect the sludge drying beds from the effects of erosion of the stream bank has withstood the effects of winter spates effectively.

An unsatisfactory sewage plant at Northleigh is to be improved and land is being acquired for this purpose.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

No substantial changes were made in the system of refuse collection during the year. A proposal to extend the fortnightly collection to the remaining 13 parishes which have a monthly collection at present was not approved but will be reconsidered in December this year.

## **Factories Act.**

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	18	11	—
Factories not included in the above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	22	18	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Building sites, etc.) ... ..	25	25	—
	—	—	—
	65	54	—
	—	—	—

## **Defects found and remedied.**

- Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences—1.
- Absence of proper sanitary conveniences—2.

## **Slum Clearance.**

Formal action taken under the Housing Act resulted in an order being made for the demolition of a cottage at Dunkeswell and the acceptance of an undertaking that a cottage at Farway was not to be used for human habitation until it is rendered fit.

## **Housing.**

### **New Dwellings.**

No houses were completed by the Council during the year, though work on a scheme for thirteen houses and two bungalows at Sidmouth Junction is about to begin. After a great deal of difficulty, sites for twelve houses have been approved at Branscombe and the preparatory work is in hand.

Private development completed 8 houses and bungalows.

## **Improvement Grants.**

Four pre-war houses belonging to the Council were modernised with the aid of grants.

Seventeen private houses were improved with discretionary grants totalling £3,105, and seventeen with standard grants totalling £2,060.



### **Rodent Control.**

Routine inspections were carried out in the district and all complaints satisfactorily dealt with. Percentage test baiting of sewers was carried out but no treatment was necessary.

### **Petroleum Acts.**

During the year pressure tests were conducted on three new petroleum storage installations and three new licences issued.

### **Food and Drugs Act, 1955.**

The only slaughterhouse in this area has not been brought up to the minimum standards required by the Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations and consequently no slaughtering has taken place during the year.

### **Food Preparation Premises.**

All the cafes and hotels were inspected at the peak holiday periods and a very high standard of hygiene is reported. Two roadside snack-bars operating from vans on the trunk road were below the general standards but they have both now ceased to operate.

J. D. Hopgood, Public Health Inspector.

# OTTERY ST. MARY URBAN DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	10,008 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	4,040
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£48,132
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£195 (approx.)
General Rate levied	...	...	...	...	20/6d.

## Deaths

1960—33 males, 30 females	...	...	...	...	63
1961—28 males, 25 females	...	...	...	...	53

## Live Births

1960—24 males, 27 females	...	...	...	...	51
0 illegitimate births were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population,	12.1.				
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births,	Nil.				
1961—28 males, 24 females	...	...	...	...	52
3 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 52.					
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population,	12.9.				
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births,	5.8.				

## Still Births

1960—1 still birth was registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	52
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births,	12.3.				
1961—1 still birth was registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	53
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births,	18.9.				

## Deaths of Infants under 1 years of age

1960—0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births,	Nil.				
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births,	Nil.				
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births,	Nil.				
1961—1 death was registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births,	19.2.				
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births,	20.4.				
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births,	Nil.				

### Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1960—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births,	Nil.				
Maternal deaths,	Nil.				
1961—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live birth,	Nil.				
Maternal deaths,	Nil.				

### Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1960—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births,	Nil.				
Peri-natal mortality rate,	19.2.				
1961—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births,	Nil.				
Peri-natal mortality rate,	18.9.				

### Deaths.

The chief causes of death were :—					1960	1962
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	2	0
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	2	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	4	7
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	10	9
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	12	5
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	3	3
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	6	9
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	5	4
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	0	0
Pregnancy, child birth, abortion	...	...	...	...	0	0
Congenital malformation	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined disease	...	...	...	...	7	5
Motor accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	0	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	0	0
					—	—
					63	53
					—	—

## Infectious Disease

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during 1960 and 1961 :—

	1960	1961
Scarlet Fever ... ..	17	2
Whooping Cough ... ..	0	7
Measles ... ..	68	10
area which can be supplied with mains water from the East Devon		
Poliomyelitis ... ..	0	0
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory) ... ..	1	0
Dysentery ... ..	1	0
Pneumonia ... ..	1	0
Mumps Meningitis ... ..	0	0
Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	1	0
	—	—
	89	19
	—	—

### Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1961 Water Supply.

The quantity and purity of the main water supply from the Undertaking of the East Devon Water Board continued to be satisfactory during the year.

Further improvements to the supply to the town area were carried out and several small extensions to the outlying parts of the district were completed.

It was decided to continue the work at No. 3 bore situated near to Nos. 1 and 2 boreholes at Great Well, Ottery St. Mary, and it is anticipated that this new source will become available during 1962.

Contemplating further extensions and an increase in the demand for mains water, the Board decided to carry out further test boring within the Urban District.

More premises are being connected to the mains water supply and the number of private wells in use is being reduced accordingly.

### Bacteriological Examination.

Six samples of water were taken from the main supply of the East Devon Water Board and submitted for bacteriological examination. Each was reported as being satisfactory.

Five samples were taken from private well or spring supplies. Three were reported as being satisfactory and two showed evidence of slight contamination but still fell within the normal range for satisfactory shallow wells.

The source of supply showing contamination is outside the Water Board and for the time being at any rate the shallow well will have to suffice.

### **Sewage Disposal.**

The work on the new Sewerage Scheme at Tipton St. John, which commenced in March, 1960, and included the construction of sewage disposal works and pumping stations, was completed during the latter part of the year. The works are now fully operating.

The Tipton Vale and Metcombe Vale Council Housing states, comprising a total of 28 dwellings, were connected to the new public sewer and the small sewage disposal plant serving these dwellings was disconnected and dismantled. Nos. 1—6 Coombe Villas were also connected to the sewer and the installation of W.C.'s in these dwellings will be carried out in the very near future. Apart from these Council Houses, 12 other dwellings were connected to the sewer during the year.

Messrs. Lemon & Blizard, the Council's Consulting Engineers, completed details of the proposed extension of sewers and other ancillary works for the Town Area and the contractors began work in November of this year. Satisfactory progress is being made on Part 1 of the scheme and when this contract is completed it will enable considerable further development of the area to take place, particularly at the eastern end of the town. Also included in the contract is Part 2 of the scheme which comprises a Pumping Station and rising main to serve the northern part of the town.

General maintenance and working of the Town Sewerage Disposal Works was satisfactory during the year.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

The disposal of household and trade refuse by collected tipping at the disused clay pit situated at Chineway continued satisfactory during the year. The weekly collection of household refuse in the town area and fortnightly collection in the outlying parts of the district appears to meet adequately the needs of the area. No serious complaint or breakdown of the system was reported.



## Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	22	41	—
Factories not included in the above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	16	34	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority— Building Sites, etc. ... ..	21	42	—
	—	—	—
	59	117	—
	—	—	—

Defects found and remedied :—

Want of cleanliness—1.

Unsatisfactory washing accommodation—1.

Unsuitable and defective sanitary conveniences—2.

## Housing.

Number of new dwellings erected :—

By Local Authority ... ..	11
By other bodies or persons ... ..	22
	—
Total	33
	—

In addition to the above, one large house was converted into three self-contained flats.

The Council continued their policy of not making any Discretionary Grants under the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, and the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Standard Grants were made in respect of ten dwellings which were duly improved in accordance with the provision of the Act.

Satisfactory progress has been made during the year on the Mossop Close Council Housing Estate. Seven two-bedroom and four three-bedroom houses being completed and occupied. When completed, this estate will consist of twelve two-bedroom houses, four three-bedroom houses, nine one-bedroom flats, one two-bedroom flat and eight one-bedroom bungalows.

## Slum Clearance.

A little progress was made during the year in respect of the proposed Clearance Areas Nos. 4, 6 and 7.

The occupants of five dwellings comprising Clearance Area No. 4 were re-housed and the owner of the properties concerned indicated that he did not wish to object to the Council's proposals for a complete clearance of the said area.

Negotiations are still proceeding in respect of the proposed Clearance Areas Nos. 6 and 7.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Rodent Control.

Apart from a few minor infestations, the area is comparatively free from any serious trouble from rats or mice. The whole of the district, comprising Areas 1—12, has been subject to survey by the part-time rodent operator. There is no doubt that these systematic inspections keep the general public aware of the potential danger of rat infestation and prevent any rapid and major infestations of premises which might well occur.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs
Number killed ...	419	51	795	1,280
Number inspected ...	411	50	788	1,262

### All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis—

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	66	—	66	238
Percentage of the number inspected affected with a disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis ...	16.06%	0%	8.50%	18.86%

### Tuberculosis only—

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	2	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	0.25%	—
Cysticercosis ...	—	—	—	—

### Condemnations.

Beef (including offal)	...	...	...	756 lb. weight
Mutton and Lambs	...	...	...	582 lb.
Pork ... ..	...	...	...	323 lb.
Tinned Meats	...	...	...	52 lb.
Miscellaneous (tinned fruit, etc.)	...	...	...	65 lb.

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Total	1,778lb.
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### Slaughterhouses.

In accordance with the recommendations accepted by the Council and in co-operation with the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the three slaughterhouses in the district, all of which are situated in the Town Area, were brought up to the standards required by the Food and Drugs Act, 1958 and the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

In each case constructional alterations and improvements were necessary, including the provision of stunning pens for the slaughter of cattle. The work was completed and the equipment provided by the appointed date, i.e. 31st August, 1961.

### Food Preparing Establishments.

Inspections were made of the Butchers' Shops, Cafes, Bakehouses and other food preparing establishments in this area. Generally speaking the premises were found to be satisfactory and there is no doubt that there is a steady improvement in the standards of hygiene of the personnel engaged in the handling of food. More frequent inspections would, I feel sure, effect an even high standard of cleanliness of the premises and personnel involved, but lack of adequate staff prevents this work being carried out.

C. W. Glover, Public Health Inspector.

# SEATON URBAN DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1,178 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	...	3,280
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£65,064
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	...	£255
General Rate levied	...	...	...	...	...	20/6d.

## Deaths

1960—42 males, 32 females	...	...	...	...	...	74
1961—17 males, 41 females	...	...	...	...	...	58

## Live Births

1960—17 males, 15 females	...	...	...	...	...	32
1 illegitimate birth was registered and is included in the above total of 32.						
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.7.						
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births, 3.1.						
1961—16 males, 22 females	...	...	...	...	...	38
2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 38.						
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.6.						
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births, 5.3.						

## Still Births

1960—1 still birth was registered	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	33
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 10.8.						
1961—0 still births were registered	...	...	...	...	...	0
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	38
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, Nil.						

## Deaths of Infants under 1 years of age

1960—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	...	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.						
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, Nil.						
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.						
1961—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	...	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.						
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, Nil.						
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.						

### Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1960—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live birth, Nil.					
Maternal deaths, Nil.					
1961—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live birth, Nil.					
Maternal deaths, Nil.					

### Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1960—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.					
Peri-natal mortality rate, Nil.					
1961—0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.					
Peri-natal mortality rate, Nil.					

### Deaths.

The chief causes of death were :—					1960	1961
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	6	8
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	12	11
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	17	10
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	20	6
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	3	3
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	0	2
Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	0	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	5	4
Motor accidents	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	0
Suicide	...	...	...	...	0	0
					—	—
					74	57
					—	—



## **Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1961 Water Supply.**

The quality of the water continues to be excellent. A supplementary supply of water was taken from the Couchill reservoir during the summer months. A new 3 inch water main was laid in Townsend Avenue, and a 4 inch main was laid through the Wessiters Estate. The whole of the Town is supplied from the public mains direct to the houses.

### **Housing.**

No Council owned houses were built during the year. 37 privately owned dwellings were built and finished.

### **Housing Act.**

No unfit houses were found which called for action under these Acts.

### **Improvement Grants.**

One house was approved for a Standard Grant and the work was executed.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

I have nothing to add to my observations of last year, except to say that the problem is more urgent than ever.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

The arrangements for refuse collection are as previously reported. By arrangement with Axminster Rural District Council we are still disposing of our refuse at Beer.

### **Rodent Control.**

There were no major infestations. Minor infestations were promptly dealt with by the Rodent Operator. The half yearly treatment of rats in sewers continues.

### **Food Shops and Dairies.**

Inspections are made from time to time under the Food Hygiene Regulations and I have been pleased to note a general improvement under this heading.

### **Public Health and Food and Drugs Act.**

Two notices were served in respect of Bakehouses, and one in respect of a school, and in answer to complaints action was taken in 7 cases regarding food allegedly unfit for sale. In addition, unsound food was voluntarily surrendered. The quantity was small and consisted chiefly of tinned fruits or meat.

### **Factories Act, 1937.**

The number of factories is as reported in the 1960 report. No action was necessary during 1961. There is one outworker on the register.

### **General.**

I regret that owing to pressure of work this is not such a full report as I intended to make but it does cover the chief items concerning my work as your Public Health Officer.

P. R. Bradley, Public Health Inspector.









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